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ANNUAL REPORT

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Alberta
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Office of the Minister

323 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 403/427-2391 Fax 403/422-6259

The Honourable Stanley Schumacher
Office of the Speaker
Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Sir:

I have the honour to hereby transmit the Annual Report of the Department of Environmental Protection for the year ended March 31, 1995.

Respectfully submitted,

TY LUND
Minister



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Office of the Deputy Minister

14th Floor, Oxbridge Place, 9820 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2J6 403/427-6236

The Honourable Ty Lund
Minister of Environmental Protection
323 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta

Sir:

I have the honour to submit the first Annual Report of Alberta Environmental Protection for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1995.

The department continues to carry out its diverse responsibilities successfully through the hard work and dedication of its staff.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Melnychuk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Melnychuk" clearly distinguishable.

Peter G. Melnychuk
Deputy Minister

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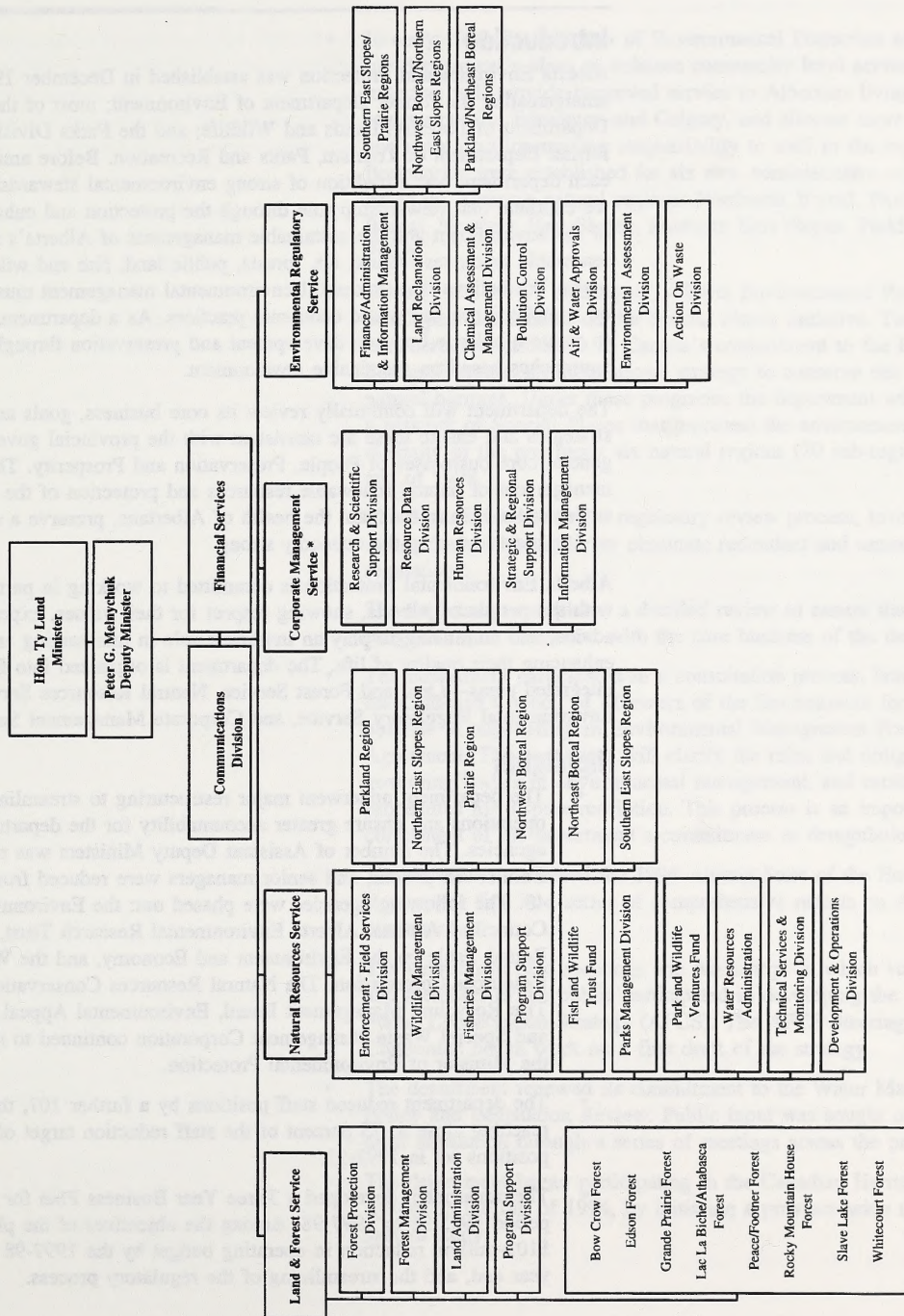
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Alberta Department of Environmental Protection



*The divisions of Corporate Management Service were established as shown above shortly after fiscal year-end, on April 18, 1995.

1994-95—THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Introduction

Alberta Environmental Protection was established in December 1992 by amalgamating the former Department of Environment; most of the Department of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife; and the Parks Division of the former Department of Tourism, Parks and Recreation. Before amalgamation, each department had a tradition of strong environmental stewardship. Today, we continue that stewardship role through the protection and enhancement of the environment and the sustainable management of Alberta's natural and renewable resources—water, air, forests, public land, fish and wildlife, and parks. We believe that successful environmental management must be based on sound science and sound economic practices. As a department, we work to create a balance between development and preservation through approaches based on sustainable development.

The department will continually review its core business, goals and strategies and ensure these are consistent with the provincial government's general core businesses of People, Preservation and Prosperity. The proper management of natural renewable resources and protection of the environment help to maintain the health of Albertans, preserve a clean environment and keep the economy strong.

Alberta Environmental Protection is committed to working in partnership with the people of Alberta, showing respect for their values, expertise and advice, and continuing to play an important role in maintaining and enhancing their quality of life. The department is organized into four broad integrated areas—Land and Forest Service, Natural Resources Service, Environmental Regulatory Service, and Corporate Management Service.

Highlights

- The department underwent major restructuring to streamline operations and ensure greater accountability for the department's agencies. The number of Assistant Deputy Ministers was reduced from seven to four, and senior managers were reduced from 52 to 40. The following agencies were phased out: the Environment Council of Alberta, Alberta Environmental Research Trust, the Round Table on the Environment and Economy, and the Water Resources Commission. The Natural Resources Conservation Board, Tire Recycling Management Board, Environmental Appeal Board, and Special Waste Management Corporation continued to report to the Minister of Environmental Protection.
- The department reduced staff positions by a further 107, thus reaching close to 75 percent of the staff reduction target of 856 positions set in 1992-93.
- The department developed a Three Year Business Plan for the period 1995-96 to 1997-98. Among the objectives of the plan are a \$101-million reduction in operating budget by the 1997-98 fiscal year end, and the streamlining of the regulatory process.

1994-95—THE YEAR IN REVIEW

- In early 1995, the Minister of Environmental Protection announced our department's plans to enhance community level service. The initiative will provide improved service to Albertans living in regions outside Edmonton and Calgary, and allocate more resources and more decision-making responsibility to staff in the regions. Boundaries were established for six new administrative regions, based on Alberta's natural regions: Northwest Boreal, Northeast Boreal, Northern East Slopes, Southern East Slopes, Parkland, and Prairie.
- During the 1994-95 fiscal year, Alberta Environmental Protection developed and announced the Special Places initiative. This program is Alberta's contribution to Canada's commitment to the Endangered Spaces Program, an international strategy to conserve our planet's natural heritage. Under these programs, the department will complete a network of Special Places that represent the environmental diversity of the province's six natural regions (20 sub-regions) by the end of 1998.
- The department initiated a regulatory review process, involving stakeholders, to simplify or eliminate redundant and unnecessary regulations.
- The department completed a detailed review to ensure that its programs were consistent with the core business of the department.
- The department participated in a consultation process, launched by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment for the purpose of negotiating an Environmental Management Framework Agreement. The agreement will clarify the roles and obligations of governing bodies in environmental management, and establish procedures for dispute resolution. This process is an important component of the department's commitment to deregulation.
- The department released the 1994 Alberta State of the Environment Report, the first in a series of comprehensive reports on Alberta's environment.
- The department held meetings and workshops in which stakeholders and members of the public participated in developing the Alberta Forest Conservation Strategy (AFCS). The AFCS Steering Committee began work on a first draft of the strategy.
- The department renewed its commitment to the Water Management Policy and Legislation Review. Public input was sought on new draft legislation through a series of meetings across the province.
- The department began participating in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System in the fall of 1994, by initiating a province-wide rivers system study.

1994-95—THE YEAR IN REVIEW

- In accordance with the Mutual Aid Resource Sharing Agreement, the department responded to requests for firefighting assistance from Montana, Idaho and northern California in the United States. In Canada, the department supplied staff and equipment to the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and the federal government.
- The first Prairie Conservation Action Plan was successfully concluded at the end of 1994. The Prairie Conservation Forum (a multiparty stakeholder group) replaced the Prairie Conservation Coordinating Committee to draft a second Prairie Conservation Action Plan, a blueprint for conserving, protecting and managing native prairie and parkland species, communities and habitats from 1996 to 2000.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

This section of the annual report addresses government accountability. As Alberta's Auditor General has noted, "measuring performance is critical to improving performance. Albertans need performance measures which are easily understood and lead to wise decisions. Simplicity, clarity and candour are the essence of good accountability."

The measures described here are intended to set benchmarks and targets against which the public can evaluate the performance of this department in protecting the environment and sustainably managing renewable natural resources.

Reforestation Performance Rate

This measure shows the reforestation success on harvested Crown land, relative to the appropriate provincial reforestation standards. Successful reforestation is essential to maintaining healthy ecosystems, sustaining our forests and providing economic and social benefits for Albertans.

Reforestation success is shown in terms of the percentage of harvested forest land that has been or is expected to be successfully reforested.

Timber harvest area meeting provincial reforestation standards				
1991-92	Coniferous	98.3%	Deciduous	98.7%
1992-93	Coniferous	97.7%	Deciduous	98.8%
1993-94*	Coniferous	97.4%	Deciduous	94.7%
Benchmark: Coniferous 100% Deciduous 100%				

*1994-95 figures were not available at publication.

Health of Fish and Wildlife Populations

The health of Alberta's fish and wildlife can be assessed by determining the proportions of species of fish and wildlife that are at serious risk, vulnerable/sensitive, healthy or of an undetermined status. Fish and wildlife are highly valued by Albertans, and activities such as hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing contribute \$1.4 billion annually to the provincial economy.

Every five years a survey of the population status of fish and wildlife is conducted. The last survey was conducted in 1990. In 1991, there were approximately 535 species of fish and wildlife known to occur in Alberta. Species are categorized as follows:

- healthy—not considered at risk
- undetermined—not considered at risk or more study needed
- vulnerable/sensitive—at some risk or require special management
- serious risk—endangered

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Of these 535 species of fish and wildlife found in Alberta, over 95 percent are considered sustainable. Twenty-two species (or five percent) of all species are at serious risk: 4 mammals, 11 birds, 2 fish, 2 reptiles and 3 amphibians.

Proportion of Licensees Who Are Able to Receive the Quantity of Water Desired

This measure reflects the department's ability to ensure that licensees receive the amount of water desired and that the province's natural resources are managed in a sustainable manner. The amount of water available to Albertans is highly dependent on climatic conditions (temperature and precipitation). The department, through its operation of major dams, has an effect on the management of the water resource. The reservoir storage can be used to provide limited flood control and can support instream and diversion uses.

Proportion of licensees who are able to receive the quantity of water desired	
1994-95	98%
<i>Benchmark: 100%</i>	

Health of known fish and wildlife populations (1990-91)	
Serious Risk	5%
Vulnerable/Sensitive	20%
Undetermined	20%
Healthy	55%
<i>Benchmark: Serious Risk</i>	<i>5%</i>

Licensees are considered to have received the desired amount of water when water mastering (such as reduction, re-scheduling or pumping restrictions) has not been necessary.

In 1994-95, 98 percent of licensees received their desired water supply. The benchmark or target is to enable 100 percent of water licensees to obtain the quantity of water desired.

Area of Parks and Natural Reserves Versus Total Area of Alberta

The designation of parks, natural reserves and related sites contributes to Alberta's protection, heritage appreciation, outdoor recreation, and tourism/ economic development goals. This designation is also an indicator of the department's ability to ensure that the province's renewable and natural resources are managed and used in a sustainable manner. The measure describes the total area of parks, natural reserves and related sites, including national parks, as a proportion of Alberta's total area.

The parks, natural reserves and related sites are designated under legislation such as the *Parks Act* and the *Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Act*. Additionally, the Special Places initiative provides for the designation of special places under this or other legislation. To meet major provincial protection/conservation goals, an additional 8 600 km² of the province may require legislated protection under one of the statutes

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

mentioned above. Further, another 11 000 km² of the province may be designated to meet other provincial heritage appreciation, outdoor recreation, and tourism/economic development goals.

Proportion of land area designated as parks and natural reserves	
Up to 1950	50 000 km ²
1950-59	55 000 km ²
1960-69	56 000 km ²
1970-79	57 000 km ²
1980-89	60 000 km ²
1990-present	62 000 km ²
Benchmark: in 2000— 81 000 km²	

The Special Places process emphasizes local community support in the identification and designation of special places. Thus, progress toward the target depends largely upon the degree of community commitment. The process for implementation of Special Places was announced only in late 1994-95. Thus, progress in this area will be reported in the department's next annual report.

The benchmark or target is to have 81 000 km² of the province, designated as parks, nature reserves and related sites (including national parks). This represents an increase of 19 000 km².

Reduction in Waste Generated in the Province

Reduction in waste to landfills is an indicator of the success of efforts to encourage Albertans to produce less waste. Alberta has adopted the target of reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills by 50 percent by the year 2000. To ensure that effective waste reduction policies and programs are in place, an interim target of 25 percent reduction has been set for 1996. The progress of Albertans toward this target will be measured on a per capita basis, using a computerized waste tracking system. Albertans will be alerted to the full cost of waste disposal in their communities, and to the economic development opportunities available to industry and to communities that develop and manage effective waste management systems.

Measures of waste disposal to landfills per capita each year are compared with the equivalent rate in 1988.

Waste to landfill reductions from 1988 levels	
1992	14.8%
1996 Target	25%
Benchmark: 2000—50%	

Pulp Production Versus Amount of Pollution Discharged

To ensure a sustainable and prosperous province, we need good water quality. One common measure that Alberta Environmental Protection uses to gauge the effect on river water of treated pulp mill wastewater releases is biochemical oxygen demand (BOD). Certain substances in pulp mill wastewater require oxygen in their breakdown. Under unusual conditions, this breakdown may decrease the amount of oxygen available to aquatic organisms. An unlimited amount of these substances might cause a shortage in the oxygen that is available to keep aquatic ecosystems healthy.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Biochemical oxygen demand (in kg) released per tonne of pulp	
1957	53.0
1973	10.0
1988	5.45
1991	1.88
1992	1.59
1993	1.32
1994	0.95
Benchmark: 3.02 kg/tonne	

Each pulp mill is issued an Approval, which restricts the amount of BOD that can accompany the release of substances into river water. The amount of BOD released per tonne of pulp produced is calculated using the total measured BOD released to a specific watercourse, on a daily basis by all pulp mills, divided by the total weight of pulp (in tonnes) that can be produced by those mills. The benchmark or target BOD per tonne of pulp represents the ratio of total maximum approved BOD release divided by the total production capacity of all pulp mills. Meeting this benchmark means that pulp mills are, on average, meeting their limits. It also means that the aquatic ecosystem is protected.

Proportion of Spills and Accidental Releases Cleaned Up Annually

Alberta Environmental Protection's goal is to ensure that any contaminants that can significantly harm the environment are contained and cleaned up. This performance measure shows our success in cleaning up spills and accidental releases of pollutants.

This measure shows the proportion of reported spills and accidental releases that are cleaned up, considering only those spills and accidental releases that have the potential to adversely affect the environment. The number of actual spills and accidental releases is also shown.

Proportion of spills and accidental releases cleaned up and number of incidents		
1991-92	100%	294 incidents
1992-93	100%	296 incidents
1993-94	100%	379 incidents
1994-95	100%	448 incidents
Benchmark: 100%		

THE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER

Financial Services

Financial Policies and Advisory Services develops and distributes financial and administrative policies and procedures; develops and maintains the department's capital assessment management system; provides liaison with external auditors; and performs financial, compliance and operational audit services.

Budgets, Forecasts and Funds Management coordinates the planning, presentation and compilation of the department's and the ministry's budget; and is responsible for the financial control and management of revolving fund entities, trust funds and the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Fund.

Expenditures and Contracts Management processes vendor accounts, contracts and grants; reports liabilities; administers a forest fire payroll system for wage staff; advises departmental staff on financial matters; and liaises with control agencies regarding accounting matters.

Revenue and Financial Systems provides for the collection, management and reporting of departmental revenue; and develops, implements, operates and maintains economical, efficient and effective financial systems and processes.

Communications Division

The Communications Division started the year as part of Community Relations Division, which reported to the Deputy Minister and comprised the Communications group, the Public Involvement Branch, and the Education Branch. The latter branches became part of Corporate Management Service early in 1995 and the Communications group continues to report to the Deputy Minister as Communications Division.

The division assists the department in communicating with staff, stakeholder groups, the media and Albertans in general. It is responsible for ensuring that corporate messages are clear, consistent and developed through strategic communications planning. The division provides the following support: media relations; issues management; special event planning; preparation of speeches, briefing notes and news releases; preparation of letters and memoranda for the executive and minister's office; as well as preparation and production of promotional materials like displays, brochures, advertisements, and posters.

Staff develop communication plans related to special issues, and policy and legislative initiatives. Internally, the division produces the annual report, a monthly employee newsletter, and the Epigram, a regular news bulletin that appears on an as-needed basis. Additional services include editing, technical editing, media relations training, and corporate imaging.

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

The activities of Corporate Management Service for the year 1994-95 are organized below to reflect the structure of the Service as approved on April 18, 1995, shortly after fiscal year-end.

Strategic and Regional Support Division

Strategic and Regional Support coordinates the department's strategic and business planning activities, interdepartmental and intergovernmental activities, and policy development and analysis. The division assists in the review and development of legislation and regulations. It provides conflict resolution services for complex, multi-interest issues. Working with Environmental Protection's line services and with other departments, the division integrates the management of natural resources. It facilitates or provides environmental and economic studies and analyses needed for policy and planning development. Strategic and Regional Support provides the department with public involvement planning and training, delivers public involvement events and assists in developing good relations with stakeholders. The division develops environmental education strategies and delivers educational programs. It develops or coordinates the department's special events, such as Environment Week. In the regions, the division coordinates delivery of the department's programs and services to the public through the Environmental Resource Committees (formerly Regional Resource Management Committees).

Information Management Division

The Information Management Division provides service to the department in the following areas: major departmental information-technology-based systems; duplicating, graphic design, creative, and printing services; and management of information. The division operates the departmental mail and courier service and manages central files and implements the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation. Contained within the division, the department's Information Centre and Library provide information services to the department, private industry, other government departments, students and the public. The division also contains the distribution centre for maps and aerial photography.

Resource Data Division

This division maintains a network of survey control markers throughout the province that, together with a program of digital mapping, provides a common framework for all other surveying and mapping activities. Land management and development functions in Alberta rely on these products being up-to-date. The director of Surveys Branch administers legal boundary issues arising under legislation within the *Surveys Act*, the *Land Surveyors Act* and the *Boundary Surveys Act*. Natural resource data are collected by inventory programs, which make use of new aerial photography and field visits. The data are usually presented as resource mapping and as reports for land and resource managers within the department. The aerial photography program provides a source of information on the visible status of land use, highway development, etc. and is used by specialists in government and industry.

Corporate Management Service provides timely and high-quality policy and legislation development, strategic and business planning, information management, resource data acquisition and management, natural resource planning and research and scientific advice to its clients.

Research and Scientific Support Division

Alberta Environmental Centre

The Alberta Environmental Centre (AEC) is a multidisciplinary environmental research laboratory located in Vegreville. The centre provides research, technology development, diagnostic, analytical and advisory services as the scientific backup to the department in its role of protecting the environment in the province. The AEC operates six environmental research and laboratory service programs: quality improvement services; air, water, and waste management; environmental chemistry; pest management; environmental toxicology; and environmental enhancement. Its environmental analytical laboratories support the licensing, investigation, monitoring, and enforcement activities of Alberta Environmental Protection.

Human Resources Division

Human Resources Division operates out of Edmonton and the Environmental Training Centre (formerly the Forest Technology School) in Hinton and provides advice, professional consultation, service and leadership in human resource and facility matters. Areas of program management and consultation include the following: organizational design; human resource planning; training and organizational development; staffing and redeployment; pay and benefits; employee relations; occupational health and safety; human resource data management; security; staff housing; telecommunications; facility planning, improvement and management; and provision of office equipment. The Environmental Training Centre is the training facility for the department, the location for the second year of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology's Forest Technology Program, and a significant partner in the development of the 1.2 million-ha Foothills Forest. Human Resources Division is the department's primary contact with the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, the Personnel Administration Office, the Workers' Compensation Board, and Alberta Public Works, Supply, and Services.

Corporate Management Service Highlights

- With the cooperation of other Services, Corporate Management Service (CMS) participated in negotiations to reduce overlap and duplication among the federal, provincial and territorial governments, and to develop a harmonized environmental management framework across Canada.
- The Service coordinated key policy and legislative initiatives intended to improve resource management in the province, and provided public involvement support to these and other projects initiated by the department. The following are examples of these initiatives: the Alberta Forest Conservation Strategy, Water Management Policy and Legislation Review, Alberta's State of the Environment Report, Kananaskis Country recreation and tourism development, Canada Creosote site management, and the Alberta component of a revised Prairie Conservation Action Plan.

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

- The CMS represented Alberta's position on the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), the environmental side agreement to the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Environmental Protection chapter of the Internal Trade Agreement.
- The Service facilitated the consolidation of departmental space requirements, reducing leased office space by about 8700 m² (the equivalent of seven floors of an average high-rise office building).
- In partnership with the private sector, the Service began a "Sustainable Communities Initiative" to assist communities to develop a vision of sustainability and to achieve that vision.
- The Service designed and delivered environmental education workshops for over 1500 teachers; designed and delivered five courses on public involvement and alternative dispute resolution; hosted 8000 trainees attending 350 courses, and 1000 visitors at the Environmental Training Centre in Hinton; provided the use of the Environmental Training Centre's Cache Percotte Training Forest Spring Camp Facility for field training to 950 youths and university students; conducted approximately 50 training staff programs with the primary emphasis on occupational health and safety; and coordinated 600 departmental staff in delivering another successful Environment Week.
- The Service is coordinating the development of the lesser Slave Lake Area Plan and the Red Deer River Corridor Integrated Management Plan. The Red Deer River plan is a cooperative effort of local municipalities and the provincial government to integrate the management of natural resources in these areas.
- The CMS began a department-wide electronic mail system and an Executive Correspondence Management Information System to improve response to correspondence from Albertans.
- Through a consortium of Edmonton libraries, the Service made the department's library catalogue available on-line. Access is now available through the department network, the Internet, the Edmonton Freenet, and modem connection.
- The Alberta Environmental Centre released two new varieties of native grass and one variety of legume to be used in reclaiming disturbed sites in the ecologically sensitive Eastern Slopes; completed a project with CANMET resulting in the installation and testing of a biofilter at the Daishowa pulp mill in Peace River; and provided field evidence that artificial aeration systems are capable of supplying sufficient oxygen over winter to prevent winter kill of some fish populations.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY SERVICE

This Service administers the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA), which came into effect on September 1, 1993. The Act consolidated 13 separate Acts to allow an integrated approach to protection of the environment.

Environmental Assessment Division

The Environmental Assessment Division reviews development proposals to determine whether they warrant consideration under the environmental assessment process; maintains the Register of Environmental Assessment Information, which contains public information on activities subject to the environmental assessment process; administers the Regulatory Approvals Centre, the department's one window for approvals required under the EPEA; develops provincial ambient guidelines and objectives for chemicals and traditional parameters in various environmental media; informs and advises the department on special issues regarding chemicals and contaminants; develops industrial and municipal source standards; and administers the Transportation and Utilities Corridor program.

Chemical Assessment and Management Division

This division issues approvals and develops standards for the storage, treatment, disposal and recycling of hazardous wastes and regulates the sale and use of pesticides. It also develops criteria and guidelines for the protection of soil and groundwater, and provides assessments of soil and groundwater contamination in support of other regulatory activities within the Service. Protocols for the remediation of contaminated sites and industrial facility decommissioning are developed by the division along with strategies for dealing with air quality issues. In addition, the division delivers soil, groundwater and air quality monitoring and assessment programs within the province.

Air and Water Approvals Division

Under the EPEA, this division issues environmental approvals for industrial activities that release substances to the environment. Approvals address construction, operation, emissions, performance, monitoring, reporting and reclamation. Approvals and authorizations are also issued for municipal drinking water and wastewater systems. The EPEA requires that operators of municipal water and wastewater be certified and the division also delivers this program.

Pollution Control Division

Responsible for firm and fair enforcement of environmental legislation, the division investigates pollution incidents, provides an emergency response function, and reviews and evaluates non-compliance, recommending appropriate enforcement action.

Environmental Regulatory Services ensures a comprehensive and integrated approach is taken to environmental protection. Comprehensive environmental evaluations are carried out before projects are developed. A high priority is placed on preventing problems through planning. Stringent environmental protection standards are applied, through permits and licensing, to minimize both generation of contaminants and their release to the environment. Monitoring the environment — air, water, soil, wastes and pesticides — ensures standards are followed and environmental quality is maintained. Enforcement activities are carried out, when necessary, to ensure compliance with standards. Research activities focus on finding applied solutions to environmental problems. Action on Waste Division implements programs to minimize the disposal of solid waste and reduce the number of municipal landfills and contaminated orphan industrial sites in the province.

Land Reclamation Division

By administering Part 5 and Part 2, Division 2 of the EPEA, this division ensures conservation and reclamation of land. The division develops regulatory guidelines, reviews proposed developments that disturb land and grants conditional approvals that set land conservation and reclamation requirements. Sites are inspected to enforce and improve conservation and reclamation, and the division issues reclamation certificates when sites are properly abandoned and reclaimed. The division administers the Environmental Protection Security Fund, which consists of security deposits paid by operators, to support satisfactory reclamation of disturbed land.

Action on Waste Division

This division was functionally part of Environmental Regulatory Service for most of the fiscal year 1994-95, although the division drew its budget from Natural Resources Service (Water Resources area). On April 1, 1995, the division became fully part of Environmental Regulatory Service, functionally and administratively.

The division's mission is to achieve a 50-percent reduction in solid waste disposal in landfills by the year 2000 and support environmentally acceptable waste management practices. The division promotes and encourages waste reduction and recycling strategies, coordinates government waste minimization, and provides capital funds and technical assistance to municipalities for landfill replacement, waste minimization programs and regional waste management systems. It develops industry stewardship programs such as the beverage container recovery system and promotes market development initiatives. The division develops and implements public awareness programs and prepares resource materials for individuals, municipalities, businesses, and industries. Contaminated orphan industrial sites are identified and remediation undertaken.

Environmental Regulatory Service Highlights

- Compounds were identified and prioritized for the development of ambient guidelines. Formal linkages were established with the national committee, which develops and reviews national ambient air and water quality guidelines.
- The Regulatory Approvals Centre commenced operation in 1994-95, and processed 2237 applications this fiscal year.
- The Service deregulated six Restricted Development Areas and coordinated the review of the Transportation Utility Corridor Program. The subdivision advisory service was discontinued.
- In consultation with stakeholders, the Service began developing Codes of Practice for continuous emissions monitoring; stack sampling; and municipal water and waste water standards and guidelines. A water quality model for waste load allocation was completed.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY SERVICES

- The Air Issues and Monitoring Branch was formed. It was provided with a mobile air monitoring platform.
- The Contaminated Sites and Decommissioning Branch was formed to coordinate site remediation and the decommissioning of regulated industries.
- Initiatives to foster sound management practices are being developed for composting, and for extraction of used oil from oil containers and oil filters. The industry pilot program has recovered 94 000 L of used oil, the equivalent of 122 000 containers and 16 000 filters.
- A remediation plan for the Canada Creosote site was approved by multistakeholders, and work was begun.

LAND AND FOREST SERVICE

Forest Management Division

The Forest Management Division operates programs that contribute to sustainable forest development across the province. Field and head office staff are involved in forest inventory and resource planning (includes the determination of sustainable timber harvest levels); monitoring of tree harvesting and manufacturing activities; forest revenue and fine collection (stumpage fees, permits and violations); reforestation—including the operation of the provincial tree nursery at Smoky Lake; enforcement of ground rules and regulations including "Free-to-Grow" reforestation standards; stand tending; and forest research in the areas of genetics, growth and yield.

Forest Protection Division

This division plans and delivers programs in forest fire prevention, detection, preparedness and suppression; insect and disease monitoring and control; and the use of prescribed fire. Operating from the Provincial Forest Fire Centre in Edmonton, the division, in conjunction with regional and district offices, maintains a network of lookout towers, airtanker bases, fire equipment caches and staging camps in the forest protection area of Alberta. The service participates in mutual fire aid activities with other provinces and territories as well as the United States.

Land Administration Division

The Land Administration Division administers the disposition of publicly owned land in the White Area (settled) and Green Area of Alberta. These lands may be leased for grazing, cultivation, recreation, tourism, commercial and industrial activities; or sold for farms, plant sites or commercial/business purposes. The division also oversees Foreign Ownership and Land Agents Licensing programs.

Program Support Division

Program Support is involved in the coordination, development and delivery of the Service's policies and procedures; human resource management; financial and administrative services to headquarters and field staff; administration and delivery of federal/provincial forestry agreement programs; operation of the Junior Forest Warden and Junior Forest Ranger forest education/work experience programs; planning and delivery of public involvement and communication programs; construction and maintenance of the Service's facilities; warehousing and mechanical repair of the Service's vehicles and equipment; administrative support to the Alberta Forest Research Advisory Council; and maintenance of the Service's automated information systems.

***L**and and Forest Service is responsible for the proper use, management, allocation and protection of Alberta's public land.*

In the Green Area (Crown forest land encompassing about 54 percent of the provincial land base), the Service undertakes programs in timber management, planning, inventory, range and protection of watersheds; reforestation and reclamation; fire suppression and prevention; insect and disease control; and recreation and education through Junior Forest Warden and Junior Forest Ranger programs. On public land within the White Area (the settled part of the province) and the Green Area, the Service regulates petroleum and natural gas exploration activities; and oversees oil sands, coal, geophysical and land dispositions.

Land and Forest Service Highlights

- Spruce budworm infestations continue to be a serious pest concern across the province. In 1994-95, the Service applied *Bacillus thuringiensis* (a biological insecticide) to 14 253 ha of forest.
- The first step in reviewing provincial timber revenues was completed by the Service late in 1993. A new system to set the timber dues (stumpage fees) for coniferous timber used in the production of lumber came into effect on January 13, 1994.
- The second step in the revenue review resulted in the establishment of a new dues system for timber used in the manufacture of oriented strandboard and pulp. The full effects of this restructuring of provincial timber dues will be seen by the end of fiscal 1995-96.
- The new systems for establishing timber dues are highly sensitive to changes in the marketplace. The 1994-95 fiscal year was a relatively good year for lumber markets and the revenue returned to the department reflects this positive situation.
- Public interest in the management of private woodlots is continuing to grow in the province. In association with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Canada-Alberta Partnership Agreement in Forestry, Land and Forest Service is providing a variety of information services to assist the public to manage forest resources found on private lands.
- In total, 10 464 applications for use of public lands were received by the Service during 1994-95. This total represents a 25 percent increase over 1993-94 levels. Most of this increase can be attributed to greater activity by the oil and natural gas sector.
- Land and Forest Service also supports basic forest research through two trust funds. These funds are the Forest Development Research Program (FDRP) and the Manning Diversified Forest Products Integrated Resource Fund (MDFP fund). The FDRP fund (supported by Land and Forest Service grant and industry donations) amounted to \$127 500 in 1994-95. The MDFP fund totalled \$515 440 during the same time period.

NATURAL RESOURCES SERVICE

Natural Resources Service was created in December 1994, from an amalgamation of three former Services: Parks Services, Water Resources Services, and Fish and Wildlife Services. In this report, the divisions of Natural Resources Service are organized into the categories that reflect the Services to which they belonged for most of the fiscal year 1994-95.

Action on Waste Division started the year as part of what was then Water Resources Services. Early in the fiscal year, the division became functionally a part of Environmental Regulatory Service.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

Fisheries Management Division

The division manages fish populations and their habitats in the water bodies of the province. Working closely with provincial and local public advisory committees, it sets fisheries conservation policy. It monitors fish populations, fish habitats, and the activities of anglers and commercial fishermen. The division's brood stations and hatcheries raise various species of fish for stocking lakes and streams. Under the Buck for Wildlife Program, and in cooperation with various interest groups, the division protects and enhances fish habitats.

Wildlife Management Division

The Wildlife Management Division manages the populations and habitats of Alberta's birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Working with public interest groups, it sets policy goals for wildlife conservation. The division monitors wildlife populations, wildlife habitat, and the activities of hunters, trappers and Albertans who watch wildlife. It manages and protects species that are endangered or threatened with extinction in the province. Under the Watchable Wildlife Program, seed money is provided to develop viewing sites, interpretive materials and nature-viewing guides for education, recreation and commerce in local communities. The Watchable Wildlife calendar is also produced annually for educational purposes and for fund raising by nonprofit organizations. Under the Buck for Wildlife Program, and in cooperation with various interest groups, the division protects and enhances wildlife habitats.

Enforcement—Field Services Division

This division is responsible for the enforcement of federal and provincial fish and wildlife legislation. It coordinates the delivery of enforcement and public service programs to the regions as well as the activities of the Service's Special Investigations Unit. Working with local volunteers, the division delivers conservation and hunter education programs throughout the province. It coordinates the Report A Poacher Program, all staff training, the Problem Wildlife Program, and the Native Liaison Program.

The Fish and Wildlife area of Natural Resources Service operates as a conservation agency managing the province's fish and wildlife resources. It enforces fishing, hunting and trapping regulations, and manages fish and wildlife populations and habitats to meet the needs of local residents and visitors to the province. Fish and Wildlife encompasses 63 district offices and 5 regional offices. The district offices are responsible for providing enforcement, licensing, information and assistance with fish and wildlife concerns, all at the community level. The regional offices oversee the districts and assist them by providing biological expertise and coordinating enforcement activities. The regional and district components of Fish and Wildlife are the primary delivery mechanisms for most programs.

NATURAL RESOURCES SERVICE (Fish and Wildlife)

Program Support Division

This division provides support services to the new Service, including budgeting, personnel and technical support. The division also administers the licensing of hunting, fishing, and commercial activities through district offices and a network of private licence vendors.

The Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

Established under the *Wildlife Act* to finance programs that protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and their habitats, the fund also sponsors programs to prevent wildlife damage, and to promote the development and use of humane traps. Each program is funded by the sales of various licences and donations from the public. Buck for Wildlife, Report a Poacher, Fisheries Management Enhancement, Wildlife Management Enhancement and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan are some of the programs financed, at least in part, by the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.

NATURAL RESOURCES SERVICE (Parks)

The Parks area of Natural Resources Service concentrates on planning, developing and operating Alberta's 65 provincial parks, 241 provincial recreation areas, 14 ecological reserves, 3 wilderness areas, 123 designated natural areas, and 189 reserved natural areas, thus supporting both recreation and conservation initiatives. Committed to providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities, Parks personnel contribute to the government's efforts to protect and preserve our cultural heritage and natural resources, and to promote outdoor tourism. Parks facilities, programs, and policies are managed and administered at the regional and district levels.

PARKS

Regions

The Parks area operates on a regional basis, with each region responsible for the operation and development of programs and initiatives within a geographical area. Regional offices provide support services to district offices and parks in their area.

The **Northern Regional** office is located in Valleyview, with two district offices located in Valleyview and Slave Lake.

East Central Region's main office is located in Lac La Biche. District offices are located in Lac La Biche and St. Albert. The region provides support to 13 provincial parks, 26 provincial recreation areas and 4 ecological reserves.

Headquartered in Vulcan, **Southern Region's** district offices are found in Lethbridge, Brooks and Cypress Hills Provincial Park.

The **West Central Regional** office is located in Rimbey. District offices are located in Aspen Beach and Fish Creek provincial parks, and in St. Albert.

Kananaskis Country management is directed out of Canmore with the following major complements: operations, operations support, visitor services, and the Canmore Nordic Centre. Major organizational changes occurred in Kananaskis Country in 1994-95 with closure of the Calgary office, elimination of the three-district field structure and privatization of the operation of most auto-access campgrounds.

Parks Management Division

Management Division develops and coordinates Parks policies, helps to direct the province's conservation and outdoor recreation programs and supports regional operations. The division plays a significant role in major conservation initiatives and a lead role in interagency relations. Specifically, the division is responsible for the parks' system long-range planning (e.g., the Special Places initiative), land acquisitions, coordination of the natural areas and ecological reserves programs, interdepartmental referrals, natural heritage education programs, and managing Alberta's responsibilities related to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System Program.

Park and Wildlife Ventures Fund

The Park and Wildlife Ventures Fund is an arm of the Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation. Acting as a land trust, the fund is part of a worldwide network of charitable organizations that aim to acquire land and act as stewards of land with natural heritage, recreational, educational, scenic or productive value. The fund brings together landowners, community groups, industry, government agencies, volunteers, and donors to meet conservation goals and to serve the needs of communities and landowners.

NATURAL RESOURCES SERVICE (Water Resources)

The Water Resources area of Natural Resources Service acts as a steward of water resources within the province and for water resource concerns shared with other provinces and the federal government.

WATER RESOURCES

Technical Services and Monitoring Division

This division provides information to enable Water Resources and the department to carry out water management and regulatory responsibilities. The division collects surface water quantity and quality data, monitors and forecasts water levels and flows, evaluates flood and erosion control measures, produces flood risk maps, provides engineering survey services, monitors and assesses groundwater conditions, and administers the Water Well Regulation of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.

Development and Operations Division

This division is responsible for implementing multipurpose surface water management and control projects, and for operating and maintaining 244 provincial water management projects and 7 major headworks systems. The director's office manages and administers the Water Management Systems Improvement Program, funded under the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. This 15-year program, completed March 31, 1995, provided funding for the rehabilitation and improvement of headworks and main canal systems, development of offstream storage reservoirs and water supply projects in southern Alberta and in the Special Areas.

Water Resources Administration Division

This division administers and enforces the *Water Resources Act* and Regulations, the Provincial Water Power Regulation, the Dam and Canal Safety Regulation and the *Drainage Districts Act*. Services such as approvals for water rights and watercourse activities, inspections for licence compliance and drainage concerns, and monitoring of dam safety are provided to the general public, local authorities, industry, and other government departments. In addition, this division administers the Alberta Water Management and Erosion Control Program, which provides financial assistance to local authorities.

During the year, some of the former Planning Division's functions were moved to Water Resources Administration Division. The new Water Evaluation Branch develops criteria and guidelines, for each river basin that guide the department's licensing and permitting authorities. The division is also responsible for providing input into the development of integrated plans, responding to referrals from other agencies, and reviewing, revising and developing policies, programs, and legislation.

Natural Resources Service Highlights

- The Bull Trout Task Force helped prepare and implement *Alberta's Bull Trout Management and Recovery Plan* and played a lead role in having the bull trout declared Alberta's official fish emblem.
- The Walleye Task Force held 16 interest group workshops and 23 open houses to introduce and seek the views of Albertans on a walleye management program.
- A new Commercial Fishing Licensing Policy aimed at making the industry more profitable, as well as a new season-scheduling process to make it more market-driven, was implemented.
- Alberta cooperated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to return wolves to Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho. This historic event was the focus of massive media coverage in both Alberta and the U.S., and 29 wolves were successfully captured, transplanted and released.
- A multi-stakeholder group completed the report, *Recommendations for the Policy on Captive Exotic Animals in Alberta*.
- The Watchable Wildlife Program, in cooperation with the Edmonton Natural History Club, assisted in the publication of a wildlife viewing guide for the Edmonton area titled, *Nature Walks and Sunday Drives 'Round Edmonton*.
- Alberta was represented on 14 National Recovery Teams created under the RENEW process (Recovery of Nationally Endangered Wildlife). National recovery plans for the loggerhead shrike, whooping crane and greater prairie chicken were published, and national plans for several species were approved.
- Buck for Wildlife completed 156 wildlife and fish habitat projects and funded 94 wildlife and fish projects run by nongovernment groups. The program also initiated a five-year sharp tailed grouse and habitat retention program.
- Sportfishing licence sales increased, with 250 958 licences sold in 1994-95, up from 241 503 licences sold in 1993-94. Wildlife certificate sales to hunters declined, from 107 131 sold in 1993-94 to 104 476 in 1994-95.
- The value of fur production for 1994-95 was \$2.77 million, as compared to the 1993-94 value of 3.24 million.
- Commercial fishing seasons were scheduled on 98 lakes and reservoirs. The estimated harvest was 2 009 900 million kg, having a landed value of \$2.8 million. Approximately 50 percent of the catch was sold to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation; the balance was sold locally in Alberta.

NATURAL RESOURCES SERVICE

- In the Peace River Region, the North West Caribou Standing Committee was organized. This cooperative effort involves various government agencies, the timber harvesting industry, and the oil and gas industry to protect caribou and other wildlife populations in areas subjected to increasing industrial activity and access. A similar group is in its third year of operation in the Northeast Region.
- The Eastern Slopes Region completed several animal translocations: six goats from southeastern British Columbia to the Livingstone Range; over 130 elk from the YaHa Tinda Ranch to other winter ranges in the eastern slopes; 49 bighorn sheep to Oregon.
- In the Parkland and Prairie Region, 39 captive hatched peregrines were released from the banks of the Red Deer and Bow Rivers. For the first time since the 1960s, a female peregrine (originally released as a chick on the Red Deer River in 1992) returned with a mate and raised young in the natural environment of the Red Deer River.
- The Parkland Region initiated an extensive burrowing owl inventory. Intensive investigation of piping plover reproductive success in this region indicated that the use of nest enclosures increases production.
- In the Northeast Region, the Cold Lake Advisory Committee completed its recommendations on future management of the lake.
- On March 28, 1995, Alberta's Special Places Program was released. Special Places focuses on completing a comprehensive network of protected areas that represents the diversity of the province's natural landscapes.
- Following the incorporation of the Natural Areas Program into Parks Management in 1993-94, the division assumed responsibilities for program direction and policy development for the Forest Recreation Area Program.
- Staff for the Parks area identified and began divesting or closing approximately 80 underused roadside provincial recreation areas. This effort allowed funds to be redirected toward the maintenance and enhancement of destination campgrounds. Parks began charging for the provision of firewood by privatizing the service entirely, or introducing a surcharge. These initiatives helped to reduce expenditures.
- Outdoor recreation facilities in Fish Creek Provincial Park were improved significantly including completion of a pedestrian bridge to link park trails to Calgary's trail system. The private sector began development of a public golf course trail, and construction and enhancement of hiking trails.
- Construction began on the Peaceful Valley project, near Pigeon Lake. When complete, a day lodge situated on the edge of the Battle River valley will allow the elderly, the handicapped, and the terminally ill to visit this rural, scenic refuge.

NATURAL RESOURCES SERVICE

- The flood risk areas in Athabasca, Canmore, Cardston, Pincher Creek, and Ponoka were designated under the Canada/Alberta Flood Damage Reduction Program. Flood risk maps were completed for Hinton, Vegreville and Edmonton (Phase I). Mapping is completed and designation is under discussion with Airdrie, Black Diamond/ Turner Valley, Bragg Creek, High River, Okotoks and Whitecourt.
- The Water Management Systems Improvement Program was successfully completed on March 31, 1995, with a total expenditure of \$557.9 million on 15 major projects.
- Albertans were given an opportunity to comment on the draft *Water Resources Act*. More than 1500 Albertans attended the public review sessions that were held between October 1994 and March 1995. As well, over 300 written submissions were received. Revisions to the draft legislation will be made to reflect Albertans' input.
- Water Rights Branch opened a regional office in Calgary to better serve clients in southern Alberta.
- Negotiations were successfully concluded with TransAlta Utilities Corporation to revise and update hydro power rental rates.
- The Dam Safety Branch helped create National Dam Safety Guidelines and signed an agreement to provide training to international clients.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF REVENUES

FOR GENERAL REVENUE FUND REVENUE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1995

	1995	1994
Transfers from Government of Canada	<u>\$ 2,914,000</u>	<u>\$ 3,513,000</u>
Fees, Permits and Licences:		
Timber rentals and fees	66,406,000	30,639,000
Lands and grazing	28,472,000	26,395,000
Game	6,051,000	5,563,000
Camping fees	3,344,000	3,105,000
Fishing	1,430,000	1,497,000
Provincial park land disposition	592,000	539,000
Water power	347,000	335,000
Other	<u>764,000</u>	<u>680,000</u>
	107,406,000	68,753,000
Transfer to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Fund	(52,841,000)	(6,800,000)
Net Fees, Permits & Licences	<u>54,565,000</u>	<u>61,953,000</u>
Other Revenue		
Investment income	903,000	683,000
Refunds of expenditure:		
Previous year's refunds	1,203,000	669,000
Services and supplies to staff	339,000	375,000
Other	2,355,000	204,000
Sale of assets:		
Land	2,924,000	3,935,000
Homesteads	4,000	(22,000)
Miscellaneous:		
Provincial parks concessions	749,000	785,000
Use of works	110,000	109,000
Rentals	80,000	262,000
Water resources	104,000	113,000
Shearwater-deadfish water supply	98,000	93,000
Provincial parks	75,000	73,000
Utilities	33,000	60,000
Blood Tribe	34,000	36,000
Kroeger water commission	28,000	25,000
Other	<u>841,000</u>	<u>1,096,000</u>
	9,880,000	8,496,000
Total revenue	<u>\$67,359,000 (a)</u>	<u>\$73,962,000</u>

(a) This figure includes dedicated revenue of \$3,650,000.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES

FOR OPERATING EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT
BY PROGRAM AND SUB-PROGRAM

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1995

Program Sub-Program	Net Estimates	Dedicated Revenue	Total Authorized	Total Expended	Unexpended (Over-Expended)
Departmental Support Services	\$ 17,395,000	\$ -	\$ 17,395,000	\$ 16,925,000	\$ 470,000
Environmental Regulatory Service					
Land conservation	3,897,000	-	3,897,000	4,111,000	(214,000)
Environmental Assessment	3,080,000	-	3,080,000	2,856,000	224,000
Standards and Approvals	3,979,000	-	3,979,000	3,982,000	(3,000)
Wastes and Chemicals	7,545,000	-	7,545,000	7,644,000	(99,000)
Pollution Control	3,175,000	-	3,175,000	3,168,000	7,000
Environmental Research	10,211,000	3,000,000	13,211,000	11,859,000	1,352,000
Strategic Management and Regional Coordination	2,432,000	-	2,432,000	2,046,000	386,000
Natural Resource Planning	1,029,000	-	1,029,000	1,019,000	10,000
	<u>35,348,000</u>	<u>3,000,000</u>	<u>38,348,000</u>	<u>36,685,000</u>	<u>1,663,000</u>
Water Resources Management					
Surface Water Development and Operations	20,497,000	-	20,497,000	20,303,000	194,000
Water Resources Administration	8,659,000	-	8,659,000	9,011,000	(352,000)
Water Resources Planning and Coordination	4,650,000	706,000	5,356,000	5,886,000	(530,000)
Data Collection and Inventory	10,435,000	-	10,435,000	10,037,000	398,000
Action on Waste	<u>9,447,000</u>	<u>1,700,000</u>	<u>11,147,000</u>	<u>9,692,000</u>	<u>1,455,000</u>
	<u>53,688,000</u>	<u>2,406,000</u>	<u>56,094,000</u>	<u>54,929,000</u>	<u>1,165,000</u>
Fish and Wildlife Conservation					
Program Support	9,557,000	-	9,557,000	9,457,000	100,000
Wildlife Management	3,400,000	-	3,400,000	3,699,000	(299,000)
Fisheries Management	4,483,000	-	4,483,000	4,704,000	(221,000)
Enforcement Services	<u>9,358,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,358,000</u>	<u>9,695,000</u>	<u>(337,000)</u>
	<u>26,798,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,798,000</u>	<u>27,555,000</u>	<u>(757,000)</u>
Land and Forest Service					
Program Support	17,125,000	-	17,125,000	17,834,000	(709,000)
Forest Management	21,387,000	-	21,387,000	23,746,000	(2,359,000)
Forest Protection	14,998,000	-	14,998,000	14,108,000	890,000
Land Administration	5,946,000	-	5,946,000	5,905,000	41,000
Wildfire Operations	37,153,000	-	37,153,000	33,594,000	3,559,000
Land Information Services	<u>14,960,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,960,000</u>	<u>14,847,000</u>	<u>113,000</u>
	<u>111,569,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,569,000</u>	<u>110,034,000</u>	<u>1,535,000</u>
Provincial Parks and Kananaskis Country					
Parks — Program Support	4,337,000	550,000	4,887,000	4,883,000	4,000
Parks — Operations	21,788,000	-	21,788,000	21,320,000	468,000
Parks — Construction and Upgrading	-	-	2,283,000	2,207,000	76,000
Kananaskis — Program Support	656,000	-	656,000	554,000	102,000
Kananaskis — Operations	7,155,000	-	7,155,000	7,237,000	(82,000)
Kananaskis — Redevelopment and Construction	<u>2,353,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,353,000</u>	<u>2,433,000</u>	<u>(80,000)</u>
	<u>36,289,000</u>	<u>550,000</u>	<u>39,122,000</u>	<u>38,634,000</u>	<u>488,000</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES

FOR OPERATING EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT
BY PROGRAM AND SUB-PROGRAM
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1995

Administrative Appeal Services	<u>369,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>369,000</u>	<u>365,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>
Special Waste Management Assistance	<u>30,732,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,732,000</u>	<u>30,732,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Overview and Coordination of Environmental Conservation	<u>1,338,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,338,000</u>	<u>1,455,000</u>	<u>(117,000)</u>
Natural Resources Conservation	<u>1,505,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,505,000</u>	<u>1,115,000</u>	<u>390,000</u>
Water Resources Advisory Services	<u>494,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>494,000</u>	<u>475,000</u>	<u>19,000</u>
	<u>317,808,000</u>	<u>5,956,000</u>	<u>323,764,000</u>	<u>318,904,000</u>	<u>4,860,000</u>
Statutory					
Environmental Protection and Enhancement Revolving Fund	<u>540,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>540,000</u>	<u>8,732,000 (c)</u>	<u>(8,192,000)</u>
TOTAL 1995	<u>\$318,348,000</u>	<u>\$5,956,000 (b)</u>	<u>\$324,304,000</u>	<u>\$327,636,000</u>	<u>(\$3,332,000)</u>
TOTAL 1994 (a)	<u>\$339,222,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$339,159,000</u>	<u>\$333,736,000</u>	<u>\$5,423,000</u>

(a) The 1994 figures have been restated where necessary to conform to the 1995 presentation.

(b) Includes \$550,000 approved by Treasury Board under authority of section 29(1.1) of the Financial Administration Act.

(c) Net of a \$10,563,000 expenditure for the purchase of new assets (\$888,000), transfer of housing units from Alberta Social Housing Corporation with a net value of \$7,955,000, and a transfer of assets from the General Revenue Fund with a net value of \$1,321,689.

ENVIRONMENTAL APPEAL BOARD

The Environmental Appeal Board was set up pursuant to the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA), which was proclaimed effective September 1, 1993.

Members of the Board are appointed by Cabinet. The Board currently consists of five part-time members. When there is an appeal, it is normally heard by a panel consisting of three persons.

The Board is an independent entity, and it operates at arm's length from the Department of Environmental Protection.

Mission Statement

The Environmental Appeal Board has been established to provide fair, impartial and efficient resolution of all matters before it, while ensuring that the protection, enhancement and wise use of Alberta's environment is maintained, consistent with the purposes of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.

Mandate

The Environmental Appeal Board has the statutory authority to hear appeals of administrative decisions made with respect to a variety of matters regulated by the EPEA. Much attention has been focused on the ability of the board to hear appeals in connection with approvals, but the Board's jurisdiction extends throughout the Act.

Generally, the Board has the power to make recommendations to the Minister of Environmental Protection on matters brought before it and the Minister makes the final decision. On matters relating to requests for confidentiality and administrative penalties, the Board makes the final decision.

Environmental Appeal Board Highlights

- During the 1994-95 fiscal year, the Board received 47 notices of objection. Twenty-two pertained to approvals (including amendments and refusals), 17 to enforcement actions, 6 to reclamation certificates, and 2 to matters outside the Board's jurisdiction.
- Of the 47 notices of objection received, as of the end of March 1995: 3 were withdrawn by the appellants; 10 were resolved by the parties, with the Board serving as the mediator; 3 were dismissed by the Board; 1 was denied in a recommendation to the Minister following a public hearing; 1 was abandoned by the appellant; and 29 were still in process.
- The Board remained within its \$369 000 annual budget, spending \$365 205 during the fiscal year.

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